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The Director of Central Intelligence

Washington, D.C. 20505

MEMORANDUM FOR: Lt. General Eugene F. Tighe, USAF  
Director, Defense Intelligence Agency

SUBJECT: NIE 11-12-80 (U)

1. You missed the NFIB meeting on NIE 11-12-80 which unfortunately was timed to one of your absences. In that meeting we discussed a number of footnotes. All but two of these issues have now been clarified. (S/NF)

2. The first one is of lesser importance but I believe unnecessarily disruptive to the report. The first paragraph and four subparagraphs of the footnote to the Scope Note, page 2, in a very complex way simply say: "Technology is only one input to military effectiveness and no conclusion should be drawn from the comparisons of technology in this Estimate as to comparative military capabilities." That is too obvious even to be needed as a footnote, but I would much prefer to put it in some succinct form as that rather than to make the reader try to divine what is intended by all these subparagraphs. (S/NF)

3. Far more important is the last paragraph of this proposed footnote. Essentially it says two things which I believe are antithetical to what I've always understood you to believe about National Intelligence Estimates:

a. First, that there is something suspect about the Estimate because it has not included participation by members of the U.S. military R&D community. Clearly this is totally contrary to all we stand for with regard to separating policymakers from intelligence estimating.

b. Second, it also seems to imply that the Estimate is flawed because we haven't drawn upon the very best scientific talent available. As I said to your representative at the NFIB meeting, this type of footnote would then have to be entered into every NIE we have ever produced (unless we've ever produced one on counter-intelligence). It is certainly my view that we do not have within the Intelligence Community the most eminent experts in any of the fields on which we write estimates. (S/FN)

4. Unfortunately, I am leaving on vacation and won't have the opportunity to discuss this with you personally. I sincerely believe that the first paragraph of this footnote is unnecessarily cumbersome to our

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Rvw on 30 July 1986

*Not to be sent --**DCI will talk to Tighe instead.**31 July 80*~~SECRET~~

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readers and the second paragraph contravenes several basic principles of intelligence which you have consistently and properly defended throughout the three and one-half years we have worked together. Before proceeding with publication, I would appreciate your personal confirmation that this footnote has your full endorsement. (S/NF)

STANSFIELD TURNER

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